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ABSTRACT

Background information, messages from public officials, edited versions of presentations to the delegates, and the 17 resolutions adopted comprise the proceedings of the pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Presentations include a statement of the responsibilities of the delegates by Anthony W. Miele; a review of the legislation for the White House Conference and district meetings in the state at which issues were identified for discussion at the Governor's Conference by Bob Ingram; a discussion of the federal responsibility for libraries by Carl Elliott; suggestions for ways to deliver the library message in a political world by Alice Ihrig; a review of the fiscal position of libraries and six proposals designed to give the taxpayer more services and benefits for less dollars by Major Owens; a summary of the conference by E. Culpepper Clark; and the presentation of the official resolutions by Robert Lager. A list of delegates elected to attend the White House Conference is included, as well as a participant list and a brief description of a model library set up to acquaint participants with the range of existing library and information services. (RAA)

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Alabama Public Library Service

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A Message from Governor Fob James

Over the years, Alabama's libraries have proven to be important foundations for community development. They have provided our citizens with many educational and cultural services as well as resource centers for the business community.

Certainly, the most important aspect of library service is the promotion of "reading." Literacy is a survival tool and Alabama's libraries will continue to play a vital role in the improvement of reading skills and the encouragement of pleasure reading.

I am proud of the contributions of our libraries and strongly support their active involvement in Alabama's future.

Fob James
Governor of Alabama

Introduction

These pages attempt to sketch, in broad outlines, the achievements of the Alabama Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services. They aim at conveying to the people of Alabama the experiences of their fellow citizens who met to consider the needs of our state for library and information services.

The editing of the wealth of conference documentation has, in many cases, been substantial. Yet, throughout these pages, a conscious attempt has been made to communicate some of the drama of a conference where delegates actually cared enough to lose their tempers while discussing library services for themselves and their fellow citizens.

It is inevitable that many people will read these pages with the wish that space limitation had not prevented the reporting of the full conference experience. It is a feeling shared wholeheartedly by this editor, who hereby offers a possible solution.

Those seeking to find out all that happened at the Alabama Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services are urged to make contact with someone who was there. To assist such efforts, lists of delegates, alternates, resource people, discussion leaders, and recorders are supplied towards the end of this report. These fine people have, over and over again, demonstrated their concern for securing for the citizens of Alabama the library and information services so necessary in our complex society. They will welcome the opportunity to recruit additional supporters to the cause.

Bill Crowley, Proceedings Editor
Alabama Governor's Conference on Libraries
and Information Services

Reflections of the Conference Chairman

In reviewing these conference proceedings, I was struck once again by a particularly incisive observation made by Dr. E. Culpepper (Cully) Clark of the University of Alabama. Speaking at the Tuesday luncheon, and attempting the near-impossible task of summarizing a still unfinished effort, Cully discussed our progress to that point and made note of the interesting fact that even where the conference delegates tried to discuss money, to dwell on the fiscal aspects of libraries, "they immediately started talking about human values."

That, in my humble opinion, is what the whole effort leading to and away from the Alabama Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services was really about. This conference offered us, the people of Alabama, the opportunity to take the time from our lives to review the present state of our library and information services and to judge the adequacy of such services in light of our own feelings about what is right and what is needed.

In doing so, we found ourselves making many decisions, including that basic decision as to what we required — and were willing to pay for — in the way of library and information services. As a paid-up member of the Alabama taxpayers' community, I can relate that, in a time of resentment against the costs of government, tax revolts, and seemingly endless inflation, no aspect of library expenditures went unexamined by the conference delegates.

What did we decide? The details are in the conference resolutions, and I believe that, in the main, they represent the wishes of the people of Alabama. Through their deliberations, the conference delegates, speaking on behalf of their friends and neighbors, addressed some strong messages to the working members of the Alabama library and information community.

The most welcome of these communications was the clear signal that the conference delegates wanted library and information services adequate to meet their needs. The word services is particularly important, for the delegates were clearly not in the mood to sanction costly ventures with little or no relation to their everyday lives. During the conference, librarian delegates who talked about "their" programs were inevitably asked by non-library delegates how such programs were providing "our" services. This response from the delegates — "how does it benefit me and mine?" — is an appropriate test by which we should judge any efforts to upgrade the library and information capabilities of our state and nation. As long as the members of our state's library community can demonstrate that they are indeed working to meet the needs of the people of Alabama, they will have our ears when it comes to discussing the dollars necessary to support their efforts.

I've said it before: people do not exist to serve libraries; libraries exist to serve people.

Bob Ingram, Conference Chairman
President and Editor
Alabama News Magazine

Call to Order

At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 7, 1979, the Alabama Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services was called to order by the man who had, over a year before, set the conference machinery in motion. Just days prior to leaving office, and in a mood of reflection, Governor George C. Wallace addressed the delegates, urging them to fight for change without losing sight of the unique heritage which conveys a special strength to the people of our state.

George C. Wallace

Governor of Alabama

....It's a great pleasure to see so many of you here who are vitally interested in the library and information services of the State of Alabama. I have been your Governor a long time, and we've seen library service grow by leaps and bounds in our various school and public institutions since the day I became Governor, thanks, of course, to your help.... During the last number of years, we have sent a great number of messages to Washington. They were heard and listened to. I hope that you will prepare and send many messages yourselves. Much of our funds come from those revenues from the people of our state that find their way to Washington and then, of course, have to come back. Usually we lose some in the deal. I also want to thank Bob Ingram for chairing this conference because it is a labor of love for him. It's something he has done for the state and for library and information services because he is interested, as you and I are interested.

"We have sent a great number of messages to Washington"

I want to say to your present Director of the Alabama Public Library Service, Tony Miele, and the former director, Mrs. Beamguard, that both of you have done a great job. I have enjoyed, of course, my associations with all of you.... We have a new Governor coming in to take my place in a few days, and I feel that Alabama is in safe and good hands.... I do want you to elect strong, thoughtful, and articulate delegates to the national White House Conference on Library and Information Services, something I am sure you will do.

With those few remarks, I do want to close and say that the people of this state are good people. We have come far, not just as a result of the efforts of people like ourselves, but because of the efforts of our forefathers — our mothers and fathers and grandfathers and grandmothers from here in the great southern part of the United States. We have come from what Mr. Roosevelt said in 1932 was the number one economic problem of the nation, when our people were as poor as they could be. I was part of that population. I saw the poverty. I smelled it. I felt it. I was in abject poverty myself along with 98 percent of the people of the south. The reasons for the poverty were no fault of their own, but they never gave up. My mother, today at 82 years of age, a very independent soul and a good southern woman, she says, "we never were poor." Well, we were poor, but she was always rich in spirit as were those people we had in our part of the country in those days, as we have today and particularly in the ediface in which we meet today.... We've come from those years, because of the kind of people that we are, to be part of the sunbelt, the envy of the free world, in the short time from the early 30s to the late 70s. That certainly is a compliment to the people of this state....

I am sure you are going to have great success in the next administration in the continuing upgrading of the library and information services of Alabama. Again, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart, Bob, Tony, Mrs. Beamguard, all of you, for having allowed me to serve you as your Governor for so long. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

Throughout the conference, the delegates were frequently reminded that they had a responsibility, not only to Alabama, but to the nation as well. This charge was presented early, and effectively, by Heather Nicoll, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science's liaison to the Alabama conference.

Greetings

Heather Nicoll

National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

I bring you the most hearty greetings from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, the body that has been given responsibility for planning the National White House Conference. I am also very pleased to be here for the first pre-White House Conference held in the new year. The National Commission requested every state and territory to hold a pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services for the purpose of discussing issues at two levels. The Commission is very committed to the idea that in any national program, the basic building block is going to be the states. The Commission wants you to take a good hard look at library and information services in your state, at the state and local level. What do you want to do?

And I just want to say right now, in all the conferences I have seen so far, and almost half of them have passed, I have not seen any conference that had the same participation of state-elected officials as this one does. You've got participation by both your outgoing and your incoming Governor and over 80 state legislators. I think that is fantastic! What it means is that you are going to be heard. You can make a difference, what you are doing here is important. The National Commission sincerely hopes that you would give equal consideration to national issues. The President called this White House Conference and the Congress enabled the conference to take place, and the reason they did this is because they wanted to hear from you, the citizen, about what your priorities are for developing our national library and information resources. You're going to be sending delegates to this National Conference this coming October to discuss these national issues, and members of Congress have gone on record that they are not going to consider any more new library legislation until after the results of that National Conference.

"I have not seen any conference that had the same participation of state-elected officials as this one does"

So, I wish you the best of luck in your deliberations these next three days. The National Commission is very interested in what comes out of this conference, your input and your concerns are needed, and they will be listened to.

Overview

In the course of the conference effort, the citizens of Alabama had been urged to look beyond the traditional sterotypes and to view library and information services, not as untouchable edifaces from the past, but as tools suitable for modern needs. The responsibility of restating the goals of the conference, and the philosophy behind it, was undertaken by Anthony W. Miele, Director of the Alabama Public Library Service.

Anthony W. Miele, Director
Alabama Public Library Service

....The Alabama Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services is a very special opportunity for all of us to participate in making decisions which can affect the future of library services. This conference is a midway point in a national effort to improve library services. We began at the district level, gathering information and views. We have now reached the state level. In the fall of '79, President Carter will call the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services.... All here possess two very important ingredients necessary for the success of this conference. You bring with you experience and knowledge which are essential for realistic planning. Most importantly, you represent the people of Alabama.

"We are here to recognize and promote a fundamental right in a democratic society — the right to free access to information for every individual."

Your responsibilities are many, but I know you can handle them. To fulfill best your obligations, you need to keep in mind the purpose and goals of the Conference. To identify the extent to which library and information services in the state meet the current needs of Alabama's citizens. To determine what and how library and information services must be developed to meet future needs. To set goals for action to develop the library and information services that are needed in the future. To encourage improvement of library and information resources by making citizens, and their local and state officials, aware of the role libraries and information centers play in the educational, economic, and cultural development of the state. To inform Alabama's citizens of the goals for action set forth by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.... To prepare Alabama's delegates for participation in the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services which will be held in Washington.

I know we are all here because of our interest and deep concern for Alabama's libraries. But, do we really know what a library is? At the beginning, when the book was the most efficient means of storing information, libraries were, of course, warehouses for books. Librarians were, by and large, bookkeepers and maintainers of those collections. But the advance of technology, specifically in the area of information storage and retrieval, has provided us with an array of alternative means. The Model Library, which you will have ample opportunity to visit and explore, provides us with a look into the new world of what today's libraries are and what they can be all about. Today's library is no longer just a warehouse for books — it's also a living and dynamic information and referral center.

Ultimately, by way of supply and demand, the library user determines the medium and the content of the library. Librarians have always faced difficult

decisions in selecting content and generating the means to make books and other materials not in their own libraries available for their users. We now face new levels of difficulty, for the user must also determine, again by supply and demand, the medium as well as the content. Microfiche and electronic data transmission are not always the answer. Efficiency is not always the most satisfactory goal. User satisfaction, however, is the final criterion by which a library can be judged successful. To this end, we are searching for the means to match user and library services in a rapidly changing technological landscape. The series of conferences in which we are now engaged will help. But we must also continue to discover the means to both long-range planning, and short-term provision, of appropriate services.

We must learn to share our solutions, not merely our problems, among librarians, among users, and most importantly, between librarians and users. User satisfaction is a most effective public relations instrument. We must encourage librarians and users alike to become familiar with the change in emphasis from the library as a book warehouse to library service extending into homes, offices, school rooms, other states, and even other nations. Though we will be confronting problems which exist in this state, we must keep one eye to the future in order to arrive at solutions and suggestions which will also make sense regionally and nationally. Finally, let me remind you that we are here to recognize and promote a fundamental right in a democratic society — the right to free access to information for every individual. The structure of this series of conferences is itself an example of that democratic process in action.

There may be no easy solutions, for there are certainly no simple problems, but the objective is worthy of our best efforts, our compassion, and our dedication. Remember, as Bob Ingram says, "People do not exist to serve libraries; libraries exist to serve people."

Perhaps the one irreplaceable man in the Alabama effort to examine the library services of our state and nation was Bob Ingram, the Conference Chairman. Although occasionally overheard asking why anyone in his right mind would chair such an effort, Bob would, when questioned about his reasons for leaving hearth and kinfolk to wander around Alabama talking libraries, inevitabley mumbled something that sounded suspiciously on the order of "I like libraries." Although his friends accepted that reason, they tended also to believe that Bob more than merited the same words that he once applied to former Congressman Carl [illegible]t — a man "who put service above self."

Bob Ingram's perception of the particularly American nature of the conference reflects both his sincere fondness for people and the healthy political skepticism of a former politician.

Orientation

Bob Ingram
Conference Chairman

....I would like to share with you my perception of what this conference really is and what it is all about. Above all, it reflects a uniquely American state of mind. With some exceptions, and those exceptions shall remain nameless, our presidents, our governors, our legislators, our county commissioners, our mayors, do a pretty good job for us when they act in our name. However, from the town meetings held in the original colonies right down to this conference, we have always favored the idea that, when it comes to fundamental issues, we like to do our own thinking. We like to come to our own decisions.... We are here representing every section of Alabama. I have spoken to friends and new friends from all over this state, from way down in the corner in Houston County to Florence and Tuscumbia and high Jackson

and Mobile and I've never seen such a cross section of Alabamians. We are here today, and for the next few days, to help decide what types of library and information services are needed by our nation, by our state, and perhaps more importantly to each of us, by our neighbors, our families, and ourselves. It's an awesome responsibility, a heavy one, but that's why we are here today.

I want to review how it came about. I did this at the district meetings, but I'll repeat it. It was about 20 years ago that somebody came up with the idea that the people, the citizens of this country, needed to sit down and decide just exactly what they wanted in the way of library service. Some years later, in 1974, President Ford signed Public Law 93-568, which provided for a White House Conference on Library and Information Services. On May 4, 1977, President Carter signed the very important appropriation bill to help pay for this state conference and the White House Conference scheduled to take place in the fall of 1979.

How does this relate to us? How does it relate to Alabama? The 1974 law authorizing the White House Conference also requested that every state hold a similar meeting in order to develop the issues for the national gathering and to select the delegates who will attend that conference. Each state library agency, in our case, the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS), was assigned the responsibility of coordination within its state. I should also note that the responsibility of coordination also brought with it the added responsibility to raise most of the funds to pay for the conference. The federal government only appropriated 1/3 of the money needed and the responsibility of raising the other 2/3s rested entirely with the Alabama Public Library Service. Contributions from the Alabama Committee for the Humanities and Public Policy, the Alabama Library Association, and a number of very splendid corporations and foundations, all played a significant role in making this conference possible.

In coordinating the statewide conference, the Alabama Public Library Service was directed by Washington to form a planning committee composed 1/3 of people who are librarians or library related and 2/3s of normal people, that's me and most of you, the citizen representatives. In the fall of 1977, Governor Wallace appointed the planning committee, which he called the Governor's Committee on Libraries.... I worked rather closely with them, and they all made a great contribution. After several meetings, the committee voted to hold the Alabama Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services from January 7 through January 9, here in Montgomery.

One of the reasons for the date, which I will unashamedly admit, was that the Alabama legislature will be in town the same several days, and we are going to need the Alabama legislature in the coming months and years. For the conference itself, the committee was directed to select delegates from throughout Alabama on the same 1/3 - 2/3 ratio in conformance with regulations developed by the National Commission....

In regard to the issues to be discussed, the Governor's Committee made the decision, and I felt it was a very intelligent decision, to let the people of Alabama decide what this conference would discuss, what issues would be debated, through a series of five district meetings which were held in Birmingham, Decatur, Sylacauga, Troy, and Bay Minette.... From these five district meetings, held in September and attended by over a thousand concerned citizens, a list of issues and a slate of possible conference delegates were sent to the Governor's Committee on Libraries. After serious consideration, the issues were identified and the delegates and alternates to consider these issues were chosen. Following this, official notifications were sent out and the delegates began to receive what must have seemed to be an endless series of mailings.

Today we begin the deliberations....

The most dramatic presentation of the conference was also the most unplanned. Originally, the Sunday night "challenge" was scheduled to be delivered by Alice Ihrig, Chair of the American Library Associa ion Committee on the White House Conference. When Mrs. Ihrig's plane was delayed by the more natural variety of Washington fog, former Congressman Carl Elliott, the man who had joined with Senator Lister Hill to force the federal government to acknowledge a national responsibility for libraries, was asked to render yet another extraordinary service. Speaking with only three hours' notice, Mr. Elliott's eloquence on behalf of a cause in which he truly believed was a forceful reminder that giants still walk among us.

Challenge to the Conference

Carl Elliott

....For 30 years, I have been intimately involved with libraries.... When I entered Congress, we were trying our best to get passed a library bill that would discharge, at least in some small degree, the federal responsibility for libraries in this country. In those days, and it hasn't been that long ago, there were people who said we couldn't afford to spend the money for federal aid to libraries. In the first bill, and we worked on it for years and years trying to pass it, there was only seven and a half million dollars a year to discharge the federal responsibility for the nation's libraries. When we came to the point of extending that law in 1960, I went before the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives on behalf of a rule for that extension bill. The Rules Committee held up, refused is a better word, to grant a rule on the grounds that we only needed four and a half million or five million with which to carry on the work that was being done by the federal government with libraries. It was at this time that I made the little reputation that I have in the field of libraries. I moved the House to suspend the rules and pass the bill without a rule from the House Rules Committee, and we were able to pass it. Of course, it takes a two-thirds vote to do that, and when that happened, my reputation as a library legislator was pretty well made.

"We must not fall down with this opportunity"

The first Library Services Act — we called it in those days the Rural Library Services Act — was passed in 1956. In 1958, two years later, we passed the National Defense Education Act.... We wrote into that bill what for those days was a considerable amount of money for libraries for schools and colleges. Now, many years later, I really feel that we are going over pretty much the same ground.

Yet, I see a new vision about it this time. We have used the Library Services and Construction Act, and its predecessor acts, to learn so much about libraries that we did not know before. We are going to really know what to ask for when we get to Washington and the White House Conference. This time, we are

going to ask for some money to do the federal responsibility in the field of libraries. Is there a federal responsibility? Well, there is a federal responsibility for libraries just as certain as there is a federal responsibility for schools and colleges and equipment for the teaching of the sciences.... We've learned what the needs of libraries are and the purpose of this White House Conference is to mobilize people like you and me all over this land who feel that the federal government ought to do something about its interest in our libraries. We are going to create the lobby arm to see that we get a good bill passed and we have never done that before. We must not fall down with this opportunity. We must not let this opportunity pass....

"There is a Federal responsibility for libraries just as certain as there is a Federal responsibility for schools and colleges and equipment for the teaching of the sciences."

Thomas Jefferson said a long time before any one of us lived, that it never was intended that a democracy be run by ignorant people. One of the means that we have of keeping our people from being ignorant is the library system, the public libraries, the school libraries, and all the special libraries. If we are to remain free, and if we are to increase our knowledge to the point that it must be, then we have got to have a good system of public libraries, because they are the people's university....

Now we must be careful, and I've said this a hundred times when I was in Congress, we must be always careful not to dampen the interest of the local people who are most concerned with what we are trying to do. That's the reason I am so inspired here tonight as I look and see all these people whose interest in libraries caused them to drive the hundreds, cumulatively thousands, of miles to this conference. That's the kind of spirit out of which the new libraries of Alabama will be built....

It's a shame that we have not yet achieved the point where our libraries can be open seven days a week. What's wrong with that? A working man or woman works five days, and he or she needs a little time on Saturdays and Sundays to get into our libraries. That day has got to come in Alabama. I want to see Alabama go forward. I want to see it use every single sinew that it can afford to carry knowledge from libraries into the homes of the people, to make it available to all the people. At this conference, we are going to come up with the recommendations we need, we are going to carry those recommendations to Washington, and we are going to get a good bill out of Congress. It will take a year or two after we have made our recommendations, but we are going to get a good bill out of Congress.

Challenge to the Conference II

Monday, January 8, was devoted to a series of four work sessions where the conference delegates confronted such topics as: What do citizens have a right to expect from libraries?; What services, materials, staff, facilities are now available? What more is needed?; How can we work together to meet our needs?; How can we pay for what we want and need? Halfway through the day, the participants broke for lunch and to receive additional inspiration from Mrs. Alice Ihrig, who had somehow managed to escape from the clutches of the Washington weather.

Mrs. Ihrig's remarks can be described as an unmatched primer for delivering the library message in a political world.

....I'd like to talk a little bit about what you are going to be expected to do when you get home. You are not going to get an assignment card which you will then punch off and "turn in." You are going to be expected, and you will expect yourselves, to be very much involved in implementing what you decide to do at this conference. It's extraordinarily important that you do decide to do something. I listened to a number of your groups this morning, and I was so happy, I was not hearing platitudes. You all are already convinced that libraries are important.

Now you are getting down to the nitty gritty of "how do we make it important in the eyes of everyone? How do we reach out to people; how do we let people know?" Over and over again, I heard public relations. We must motivate people to use our libraries. We must bring them in. We must let them know what we have. This is probably our greatest problem. Libraries are not well known to people. They haven't always kept up with what libraries are doing and do not know the services that they have and can expect.

"Remember that politicians are people who have cares and concerns about what you feel"

When you go home, the first thing I would like for you to do is call your local newspaper. If you have a TV station, call the TV station. If you have a radio station, call the radio station. Now if you are not accustomed to doing that, don't worry, because they'll be happy to hear from you. You call and you say, "I'm so and so; I have just returned from an exciting conference in Montgomery about libraries and information services, and I am willing to be interviewed." Don't ask, tell. Say, "I want to talk to the people of my community about what happened to me, about the excitement, and the interest and the challenge of having come to Montgomery for this purpose." You might explain that it has been a very different kind of conference. A conference which leaned upon the ordinary person, the person who is not a librarian for much of the decision making, indeed for control of the decision making. Be certain that your local newspaper does interview you. I mean, even if you have to go in and knock on the door of the editor and sit down and start talking. It is important for your community, having sent you here, to know what you did.

Those of you who like to speak to groups, and I suspect many of you do, ought very quickly to line up a speaking date with the groups in your community.... Ask for an opportunity to report on this conference and to tell them what you expect of them at the leadership level in your community.... You want to tell them that this was an exciting opportunity for the citizenry to be involved; that this responsibility has devolved upon you; and that within your county, you may be the only person, or part of a relatively small group of people who have experienced this, and now have an opportunity to talk to people about what to do. Now this is enormously important, because you want to be identified in your community as someone who knows something about libraries. You are going to be asked to continue that role. You are not only going to be asked to exert your political clout, but you are also going to be asked to convince a lot of people who really don't know that it is possible for people to be this deeply involved in the future of one of their public institutions. You know it's very exciting because that's what you are really doing, you are deciding how libraries are going to serve, to function, to work for you, and you can't touch every level of government with that immediacy that you are going to be able to do here. When you go home, don't bother to unpack until you have called two or three people to let them know that you are there and have scheduled yourself into several groups where you can report back. If you happen to have been here with someone from the same area, go ahead and do a dialogue, go, as a minimum, to <u>all</u> of the libraries in your area, all of the libraries, because you now know there are many more than just public libraries. See to it that they know that this was a fresh, exciting experience and that something is going to come out of it and that only if they pitch in and assist you and work with you will something really exciting occur for your state. That's the mission that you have immediately.

Now I would also direct you to Congress. Congress has an enormous influence, but I would remind you also that congressmen and congresswomen are very normal human beings and that there is abroad in the land an effort by elected officials of all kinds to please constituencies. A great many people are asking "where do we go" and they really want to know how you feel about the progress of our political institutions. I want you now to be sure that you make a contact with your congressman, and I am going to tell you how to do it. I am sure that many of you do know your congressman by his first name. What you want to do now is to go home and write

a letter to your congressman. In fact, I would prefer if you wrote it on your hotel stationery right here or on a piece of note paper from your book. Say, "I have just been attending this conference and I have learned a great deal. I now know what kind of directions we are going to have and I am soliciting your interest. I want to talk with you about this when I have an opportunity."

Now that kind of a letter in the normal course of events would find its way to the bottom of some

"We are striving to achieve a national purpose, rallying around our information services."

pile in the congressman's office. I will tell you how to get it on top. First of all, you address the letter, "Dear Joe," even if you don't know Joe, and when you get to the bottom, be sure that you sign it "Evelyn." Secretaries in Washington often have no linkages to people at home. When they get a "Dear Joe" letter signed by "Evelyn," they are obviously going to think that Evelyn knows Joe. They are going to put that on the top. The congressman when he goes through some of his messages and mail is going to look at that and he is going to say, "Who is Evelyn? Where did I meet Evelyn? Was she one of my fund raisers? Was she the one that was pouring tea that time we had the little to do?" He's not going to take a chance, so he is going to dictate a letter. He's going to write back "Dear Evelyn" and because he assumes he knows you well, he is going to sign it "Joe." You are on first name terms with that congressman. You need to exploit that relationship, which means that you will very promptly write another letter. This one doesn't even have to be about libraries. You might simply remind him, "I'm the one that's been writing to you about libraries, but I want you to know I approve of your vote on such and such an issue or I like the way you're thinking about the national budget or whatever," so that he knows that you are not just a one-issue person, because, as you know, there is a certain amount of fear of one-issue people. You will again make it Dear Joe and Evelyn. After two or three of these letters, which will have placed you firmly in his mind where there is still a large question mark, you will go to Washington, won't you? You will go to see him, you can do it in the district office, but if you go to Washington, it's just fine. You walk in and you say to that secretary, "I'm Evelyn, and I want to talk to Joe." You will get to talk to Joe and Joe will be so terribly relieved at who Evelyn is that you will then begin a face to face, one to one, relationship.

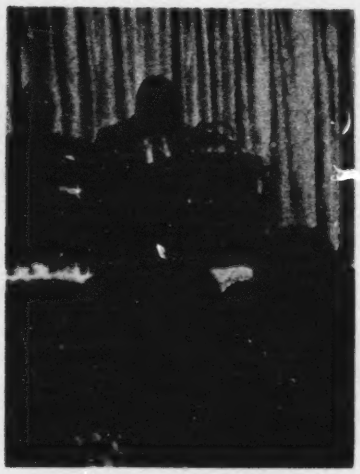
Now I do not really exaggerate, because once we elect congressmen, we abandon them. We should not do this. All of the people who aspire to an elected office should be our friends after they are elected as well as before. We need to maintain a constant contact with the people who speak for us. They are not making decisions themselves, they are trying to make decisions based upon their perception of your concerns. If you don't tell them what you want, how can they possibly please you? That does not mean they will do everything you want because they have to do a balancing act, but it does mean they will understand your concerns. I might suggest that the wonderful thing about libraries and information services is that it is so pure that no one can be against you. It is really desirable to want these good things. Most people in public office will share with you a hope that these things can be achieved. It may be a shorter trip because they do, it may take longer than you hope. Please remember that politicians are people who have cares and concerns about what you feel. You are the constituency. Do make a friend of not only your congressman, but of local and state officials as well and maintain a constant communication with them. When you are in Washington, by the way, be sure to meet a couple of the aides, because the next thing you will want to do is be on the first name basis with them. They are not quite as vulnerable to this particular type of tactic as the con-

"We recognize the value of libraries and information services for all people of this country."

gressman himself, but they certainly are the kinds of people who can give you information one day, and this will happen to you, because you are furnishing information and talking about what people need in the state, you will get a phone call from some aide, possibly from the congressman himself. He will say, "Evelyn, you have been writing to me a lot of letters about libraries, and now I have got to do some voting

on this question. Would you like to talk with me a little bit about how I ought to do this?" This happens, it happens equally at the state level. Tonight, I hope that you will call these legislators by their first names and worry them a little because you are going to need to deal with them. They want to know how you feel and besides, it's a really great thing to be able to drop a name and say, "I just got a letter from Joe, our congressman, you know." It is not the wrong thing to do, these are people who wish to serve you. What are they going to do for us?

The next step for some of you will be to join everyone from all over the country in Washington to make some plans on the national level. You will bring with you a whole set of resolutions which you have produced for the best local services of all kinds and for the best state services. You will go to Washington fortified with the knowledge that people working together can achieve — because you will have done so....



The Legislative Dinner of the conference sought to recognize those responsible for much of the progress made towards providing the people of Alabama with library service adequate to their needs. As a welcomed by-product, the dinner also presented the members of the incoming legislature, and other newly-elected state officials, with an opportunity to discuss library issues with some of their most-concerned constituents.

The special awards presented to Lister Hill, Carl Elliott, and George Wallace were among the highlights of the evening as were the pie plates and apple pies delivered to the members of the state legislature (after clearance with the State Ethnics Commission!).

Under such circumstances, the words of Major R. Owens, the librarian-state senator from New York, reached an appreciative audience.

Legislative Dinner Keynote Address

Major Owens

....It is an honor to be here in the great State of Alabama, but I did not know that I would have the additional honor of being here among the giants of library legislation, Senator Hill and Congressman Elliott. They were there. They made history! We can only talk about the new history we hope to make....

I am quite impressed with the number of legislators who are here tonight at the Legislative Dinner. I will have to confess that a similar occasion of this kind in New York State would result in most of the legislators sending their assistants and their secretaries. My congratulations to your legislators here in Alabama — they care a great deal about libraries.

These are perilous times for public officials. They are also challenging times, an era which requires that we lay aside our conventional wisdom and the old ways of responding. These are times when legislators are listening. Librarians and the people who care about libraries must speak up. We must hurry to make certain that we will be heard.

From the summary that was forwarded to me, I see that public relations was the issue raised most often in your discussions at the district meetings. And from the few panels that I have sat in on, I see that that is a continuing preoccupation. If we interpret public relations to include public education, public information and political action, I would say your district meetings and your panel discussions have been very much on target. Telling the public

what libraries do already, telling the public what libraries plan to do in the future and telling the public the kind of support needed by libraries is the primary purpose of this whole White House Conference effort. Legislators and other officials are listening and most of them are reasonable men and women. But legislators must listen to their total constituency. While we are grateful for the opportunity to talk directly to our public decision-makers, the broader task of this conference must be to send out messages to the citizens. We must make certain that whatever we say here is heard again by each public official here, and when they hear it again, it must be coming from the mouths of many other voters.

"The vital role of libraries in our modern society"

The first message we must deliver to mainstream America is a message which provides a clear exposure of the present state of libraries in our states and our nation. If it does nothing more, the White House Conference process must alert opinion makers to the fact that government fiscal support for libraries is dangerously low in our country.... When you really take a look at what has been done and you consider the great needs of our modern times, what we have is a mule and horse effort in an age of space rockets.

At the national level, consider for a moment the fact that for the twenty-year period from 1957 to 1977, the total cumulative appropriation of the Library Services and Construction Act, the federal law providing funding for public libraries and interlibrary cooperation, was only 789 million dollars.... This amount may seem large as an abstract figure but it is less than the cost of two conventional aircraft carriers which cost about 545 million dollars each....

Across the states, this lack of an adequate federal stimulus has had a devastating impact. Although libraries serve all age groups as a lifetime educational institution, no state has assigned the priority to libraries which reflects an understanding of the vital role of libraries in our modern society.

In 1979, it is an unfortunate fact for those who understand the need for libraries, in this year of the White House Conference on Libraries, that this year happens to be the year that the Proposition 13 monster is stalking the land with ever increasing ferocity....

The cornerstone of our strategy must be based on the assumption that the Proposition 13 phenomenon is not an enemy which must be destroyed. Proposition 13 is a foe which must be contained and converted. We must first analyze and understand the causes which have led to this Proposition 13 aggression. The righteous indignation and frustration of the taxpayers must be respected. As a state legislator now entering his fifth year who also previously served for six years as an appointed official in the New York City government, I am here to confess that government at every level lacks the management expertise and systems needed to cope with our complex modern responsibilities. In most government programs, we do not get the best value for our money. There is a waste in government and one does not have to be a mathematical genius to find it.

The trouble with the current Proposition 13 menace is that it is a meat ax approach and this meat ax is even more inefficient and more messy than anything which already exists. Instead of this meat ax massacre, let us fight for a new and innovative approach to budget decision making. Let us fight for the dissemination of more information about the budget making process. Let us fight for more involvement of citizens in the process. Let us be specifically aggressive and fight for library representation at the table with the budget decision-

"My congratulations to your legislators here in Alabama — they care a great deal about libraries."

makers. Few outsiders believe it, but we know that libraries can play a vital role in our society and part of this role is to make all government functions more efficient. The proper utilization of library and information services lubricates all processes where communication and decision-making is involved. More specifically, what we must say to government is "give us a seat at the budget-making session and you will find that we, too, have sound proposals for saving money and getting more out of the dollars that the public does spend."

Proposal No. 1 - That we look at our public libraries as lifetime educational institutions and understand that every dollar expended serves a multitude of purposes. In raw numbers, each dollar serves more people. Each dollar also serves a greater cross section of education levels, of age groups, of income levels, of racial and religious groups, of special interest groups, etc. Still more important is the fact that for most citizens, state assistance with their education

ends after twelve years when they graduate from high school. Only a small percentage go on to state supported colleges and professional schools. The only university that the people really have is, as Congressman Elliott said last night, the library, the people's university.

....The budget makers should increase library budgets because this is one certain area where we are getting the greatest value for our public dollar.

Proposal No. 2 — That we reexamine the role of school libraries and media centers. The present trend of reducing or eliminating school libraries must be totally reversed.... Whether it is elementary, intermediate, or high school, the core of any educational institution must be its library. In most states, public education is the largest expenditure in the budget. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should take a hard look at the way in which our education dollars are being spent.

Proposal No. 3 — Instead of cutting or postponing support for great multitype or inter-type cooperation, we should increase the investment in this area, even where money is scarce. Small investments in such efforts will result in greater savings for all the participating units or systems. Beyond the savings, there is the increased value to be gained for the public through the provision of services that otherwise would not be possible.... We taxpayers are already paying for many kinds of library service which are not available to all the people. We usually support first-rate accredited medical schools and law schools. These institutions have modern and well equipped libraries and they are usually linked to national networks. Closer cooperation and linkages with such libraries by our local public libraries would provide immediate service benefits at very low cost. All publicly supported libraries belong to the people. More inter-type library cooperation means a greater opportunity for the people to get their money's worth.

Proposal No. 4 — Internal management information systems within public agencies should be linked with public library service and information systems. For example, an individual seeking the best possible placement for a relative in need of psychiatric care should be able to review the same basic information about each state supported mental institution that is available to state officials. These are the kind of reports that are generated by the executive branch of government all the time. Why can't that be hooked into systems which allow that kind of information to flow to the public for its use? I can think of one beautiful example that I encountered today when I was introduced to the Alabama Occupational Information System....

Proposal No. 5 — That a greater investment by the state in information for business, industry, and employment will pay great and continuing dividends in terms of the kind of industry and jobs it would generate within the state. We are entering the post-industrial society. In the past, the advantages of having the right kinds of natural resources and transportation and low energy costs were the greatest advantages for a state seeking to lure industry. In the future, we are going to have more medium sized industries. We are going to have industries which are more research oriented which will need access to information....to supplement their own research and development systems.

Proposal No. 6 — That library service expenditures be viewed as part of an overall system of preventive care for the state's citizens. Libraries are part of an array of services which help to prevent family disintegration, mental breakdowns, juvenile deliquency, unemployment, and many other ills for which the state must pay large sums of money to treat after the fact. To treat these ills, we must pay large sums. Let's put more money into libraries and the other kinds of agencies and services which prevent these ills.

We could go on with more budget cutting or budget investment proposals which in the end will give the taxpayers what they want: more services and benefits for less dollars. But the message by now is clear. What we are saying is that libraries are vital and therefore they must be represented at the table when the budget decisions are made....

In seeking to correct the deficiencies of the past and to move us forward to lay the framework for library service in the twenty-first century, the White House Conference objectives are, of necessity, ambitious. However, in a period of great preoccupation with balanced budgets and reductions in government spending, these objectives cannot be accomplished without enthusiastic public support.....

We have to develop alliances to reach out politically to convince others to join us. We must reach out to private industry. We must reach out to local opinion-makers. We must reach out to public interest advocate groups, to good government groups, to religious groups. We must reach out and understand that we need the prestige, the influence and the political clout of every group that understands the need for library services.

We have to mount a crusade and that crusade has to be like a combination of well-organized political campaign and a Baptist revival meeting.... We must arrive at the White House Conference with a consensus on objectives, approaches, and principles. We must arrive also with detailed proposals and models for legislation....

Conference Summary

The unexpectedly intense nature of the deliberations over the conference resolutions, held on the third day, required debate to be extended into the afternoon. Under such adverse circumstances, the summary of the yet to be concluded conference process, scheduled for the Tuesday luncheon, became a nearly impossible task. That the task was achieved, and splendidly so, can only be attributed to the special talents of the man responsible — Dr. E. Culpepper (Cully) Clark of The University of Alabama.

Dr. E. Culpepper Clark

There are some self-evident truths which emerged from our deliberations. The first self-evident truth is that it is neither the best of times, nor the worst of times. In summarizing one of the early district meetings, Tennant McWilliams reminded us that the times we live in are not propitious for library reform. The efforts we make will have to be redoubled because of the negative atmosphere for any kind of increased public service. In the 70s, the self-evident truth is that inflation is the issue.... Fundamentally, inflation is a test of values. It tells a society what it wants and how much it is willing to pay to get it. As one group in the final session said the other day, "When we ask can we afford it, we are only asking ourselves to set priorities."....

"People tried to talk about money, and they immediately started talking about human values"

What has inflation taught us about ourselves? It has taught us that we are willing to pay for oil at any price. We want mortgages at any price. We want our charge cards at any price. Inflation has also, sadly, told us for what we are unwilling to pay....

Whether justified or not, Proposition 13 is a sign that we are seeking the pleasure of indiscriminate blame. We have come to the conclusion that the government which brings you library services is also the government that brings you energy crises, or depressions, or bad health. We have come to associate all government with a responsibility for all that troubles us in the 70s. This creates the mentality that says, "We would rather cut back in areas like libraries and education than cut back on gas, liquor, or television sets." We all know that Proposition 13 is justified. We do need to say no. We do need to test our values by saying no to the right kinds of things. We do need to say no to bloated bureaucracies. We do need to say no to mindless consumption. To what can we say, "Yes"?

That leads me to my third self-evident truth — the best things in life are free, or nearly so. One conferee hit the mark the other day when she called the library "the cheapest entertainment in town." Think about it. One tank of gas equals one good book or, with the library multiplier effect, the availability of 15 to 20 volumes per year. Think about it, one tank of gas.

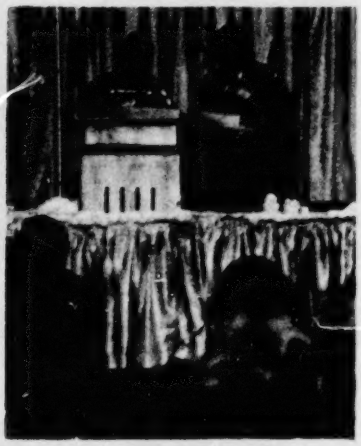
Since librarians, like many other professionals, cannot tell the public what they are worth, we can offer a measure by realizing that one tank of gas equals four to six hours of human service. If we look at it in the aggregate, if we all burned one less tank of gas per year in this country, we could save approximately 1.5 billion dollars. Then the dreams of Ben Franklin, Lister Hill, and Carl Elliott can be

realized, rather than the strident preachments of a Howard Jarvis.

There are, of course, signs of a great awakening. While others meet to blindly say "no," we assemble here to say "yes" to some very positive things. I heard a number of people try to say, during the last three days, that all we are talking about is money. I didn't hear that. I heard people talking about what money could be spent for. I even sat in on a work session, the last one — "How can we pay for what we want and need?" — where people tried to talk about money and they immediately started talking about human values.

The only way you can measure costs of benefits is in human terms. As I listened to this conference, I found that we do not talk so much about costs as we do about human benefits. We talk about access to libraries, public relations for users and non-users. We talk about standards for improving service. We talk about the special needs of under-served groups. We talk about cooperation among libraries and library programs. We talk about stable funding bases so that we may offer those services. We talk about postal and utility rates which facilitate the flow of information. We talk about local, state, and federal support, again, so that we may provide a service....

"One tank of gas equals one good book, or with the library multiplier effect, the availability of 15 to 20 volumes per year"



In the hectic days preceeding his inauguration, Governor-Elect Fob James often found himself scheduled "in three different parts of the state." Unable to attend the Tuesday lunch and personally receive the conference resolutions, he sent Dr. Robert (Bob) Lager, his Executive Assistant for Education, with welcomed news for those concerned about the library and information needs of the people of Alabama.

Presentation of Official Resolutions

Dr. Robert Lager

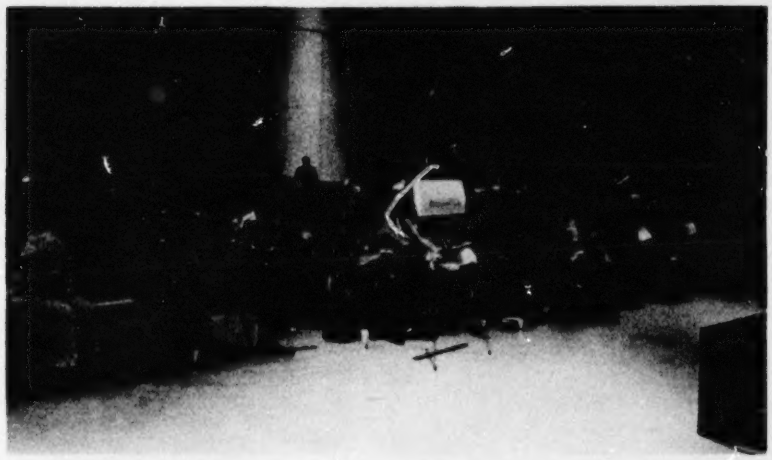
....I began to look up some figures about libraries in Alabama and I found a statistic which I could not believe. I found that there are only 1.2 books per capita in the public libraries of the State of Alabama. That is an outrage. We shall not allow that outrage to continue.

Perhaps the most salient reason that this outrage exists in the State of Alabama is that we spend only 40¢ per person, per year, on public library books....

I will finish with a plea to you to educate me to help me to know what to do to make libraries better in Alabama and to interest the people of Alabama in books. I pledge to you that the Governor and I will support your endeavors....

You will find in Mr. James, in Mrs. James, and in me, great friends for libraries.

The Alabama Resolutions



The following resolutions were adopted by the delegates to the Alabama Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services, January 9, 1979, Montgomery, Alabama.

RESOLVED that all people in Alabama have the right of adequate access to library and information facilities, resources, services, and qualified staffs.

RESOLVED that libraries have a responsibility to plan and to implement an aggressive public relations program to create among users and non-users a vital awareness of library and information facilities, resources, and services.

RESOLVED that library facilities, materials, and staffs be upgraded to meet and maintain the standards of the appropriate certifying, accrediting, and professional organizations.

RESOLVED that education and training programs be developed to provide at all levels qualified library personnel who are responsive to library users.

RESOLVED that special emphasis be placed upon continued development and implementation of programs to provide library resources and services for:

racial and ethnic minorities;
the aged, homebound, institutionalized, and inmates in correctional institutions;
the rural and isolated;
the deaf, blind, and other physically handicapped;
the emotionally disturbed;
the mentally retarded;
the multiple handicapped;
those with learning disabilities and the gifted;
illiterate and semi-illiterate groups;
and other under-served groups.

That talking book service provided by Regional Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped through the Library of Congress be extended to cover educable mentally retarded and learning disabled pupils identified and served by local school systems.

RESOLVED that further steps toward formal cooperation among various types of libraries, identifying those areas of cooperation which already exist and recommending those areas where new or further cooperative efforts, such as:

sharing of resources
sharing of facilities
joint purchasing
union catalogs
statewide borrower's card
interlibrary loan
use of consultants
consolidation of facilities
computer based information systems, technology, and networks
Alabama's role in a national cooperative;

are needed and that a study committee on cooperation should be established, composed of representatives appointed by the Governor, from all libraries, agencies, and users which will be participating in any proposed plan, provided that at least eighty percent of those appointed attended the Alabama Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services as a delegate, alternate delegate, observer, or served as a discussion leader.

RESOLVED that through public and private financial support, there must be established a stable funding base for the growth and improvement of library programs and services.

RESOLVED that amendatory legislation and regulation be sought at the appropriate governmental

level to provide for reduction of postage and utility rates for libraries and for more cooperative use of library resources.

RESOLVED that local support for libraries should include adequate local public funds, private financial support, volunteer manpower resources, and the determination not to be content with minimum funding levels and minimum standards; furthermore be it proposed that no further construction of library facilities with tax money be undertaken without adequate evaluation involving appropriate local library trustees and/or boards.

RESOLVED that the Constitution of Alabama should include provision for public support for libraries.

RESOLVED that the Alabama legislature should provide the means for maintaining at least minimum levels of tax support for library programs.

RESOLVED that Congress should provide forward funding for all library programs and full funding of all authorizations for library support.

RESOLVED that Alabama needs federal support for libraries including funds for: construction, staff development, improved resources, expanded services, consulting and technical assistance, model programs, cooperative efforts, and feasibility studies.

RESOLVED that the Curriculum Development Committee of the Alabama State Board of Education require a course in library skills at every grade level, kindergarten through 12th grade.

"We had better get a calendar and throw our watches away"

Bob Ingram

RESOLVED that the Alabama Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services is in favor of urging agencies such as (and including) the American Library Association and the National Commission on Library and Information Science to keep abreast of and support, when appropriate, new legislation such as the following:

1. Public Service Satellite Communications Act of 1978-79; Ottinger, Fuqua, & Rose
2. Communications Act of 1978-79; Van Deerlin, Frey
3. Space Policy Act of 1978-79; Stevenson
4. National Space and Aeronautics Policy Act of 1978-79; Schmitt

All of which have aspects which relate directly to libraries and the need for a national information coordinating center.

RESOLVED that adequate elementary school libraries be established in all elementary schools in the State of Alabama to meet minimum state standards.

"Representatives of these respective groups should not blame one another for inadequacies, but should work together for common goals."

Citizen delegate

RESOLVED that the resolutions adopted at the Alabama Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services shall be sent to the:

Governor,
Governor-Elect,
Members of the State Legislature,
The Alabama Congressional delegation,
Officials of local, city, and county governments,
Alabama Public Library Service,
Alabama State Department of Education,
Alabama Commission on Higher Education,
Alabama Library Association,
Alabama Instructional Media Association,
Alabama Committee for the Humanities and Public Policy,
To all libraries in the State of Alabama,
All Presidents of state-supported colleges and universities,
Board members of the Association of Classroom Teachers,
and to the people of Alabama through the daily newspapers and media of Alabama,
The National Endowment for the Humanities,
The National Commission on Libraries,

and that those delegates elected to the White House Conference review these resolutions, make necessary editorial improvements, delineate those resolutions which have national implications and utilize them to construct an Alabama platform for the White House Conference.

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED that the participants in the Alabama Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services extend their gratitude to Governor George C. Wallace for his sponsorship of and participation in the Conference and for his continuing support of Alabama libraries.

RESOLVED that the participants in the Alabama Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services extend their gratitutude to Governor-elect Fob James for his participation in the Conference and solicit his continued support of library programs in Alabama.

RESOLVED that the participants in the Alabama Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services extend their heartfelt appreciation to the Conference Chairman, Mr. Bob Ingram, for his leadership, humor, dedication, and outstanding contribution to the entire conference and for his continuing support of Alabama libraries.

RESOLVED that the participants in the Alabama Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services express their heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Anthony W. Miele for his leadership and to all his staff for their hard work and dedication in making the five District Conferences and the Governor's Conference a resounding success and a vital voice on behalf of all libraries in the State of Alabama.

Alabama Delegates to the White House Conference on Libraries

Public Delegates

Justice Bigbie, *Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars of Alabama*, Dothan

Bettye Fine Collins, *Member, Birmingham School Board*, Birmingham

Honorable Carl Elliott, Sr., *Attorney*, Jasper

William C. King, *Executive Assistant to Governor Wallace*, Montgomery

Jane Mabry, *Member, Huntsville City Council*, Huntsville

Sidney Sandridge, *President, Athens State College*, Athens

Library-Related Delegates

Nancy R. Agnew (Public), *Director, Wheeler Basin Regional Library*, Decatur

Geraldine W. Bell (School), *Coordinator, Media Resources, Birmingham City Schools*, Birmingham

Nancy Gonce (Academic and Special), *Librarian, Muscle Shoals Mental Health Center*, Florence

Kay Vowvalidis (Trustees), *Chairman, Trustees Section, Southeastern Library Assn.*, Ozark

ALTERNATES

Public Alternates

W. Byron Causey, *President, Alexander City State Junior College*, Alexander City

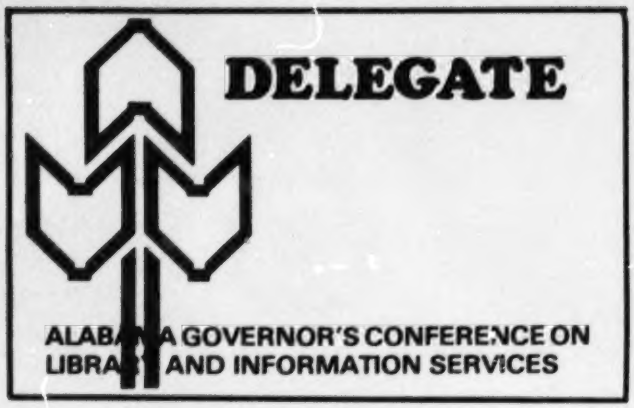
Truman M. Pierce, *Dean Emeritus, School of Education, Auburn University*, Auburn

Library-Related Alternates

William C. Highfill, *Director, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, President-elect, Alabama Library Assn., Inc.*, Auburn

Anthony W. Miele, *Director, Alabama Public Library Service*, Montgomery

DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES ELECTED TO REPRESENT ALABAMA AT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ARE: (left to right) Anthony W. Miele, William Highfill, Geraldine Bell, Justice Bigbie, Nancy Gonce, Kay Vowvalidis, Jane Mabry, Nancy Agnew, Carl Elliott, Sidney Sandridge, Bettye Fine Collins, Bill King, Truman Pierce, and Byron Causey.



DELEGATES

Barney L. Abbott
Montgomery

Dr. Joe D. Acker
Fayette

Bertha Adams
McIntosh

Nancy R. Agnew
Decatur

Helen Akens
Huntsville

Carl Allen
Stevenson

John Allen
Huntsville

Dr. Turner W. Allen
Florence

Juanita Anauo
Andalusia

J. Michael Armstrong
Headland

Dr. Leah R. Atkins
Birmingham

Dallas Baillio
Mobile

Dr. Howard Ball
Normal

John G. Baylor
Mobile

Betty Beal
Birmingham

Elizabeth Beamguard
Montgomery

Sara Beasley
Montgomery

Dr. Geraldine Bell
Birmingham

Mrs. Leonard Bengert
Sylacauga

Justice Bigbie
Dothan

Dr. Paul H. Blackwell, Jr.
Alexander City

Patricia S. Blalock
Selma

Patricia H. Bonkemeyer
Gardendale

Mary Ellen Bowling
Troy

Betty Brindza
Locust Fork

Dorothy Brown
Tuscaloosa

Dr. Jack S. Brown
Florence

John D. Brown
Selma

Myrtle P. Brown
Florence

Anita Buckley
Hartselle

David L. Burt, Jr.
Evergreen

Dr. Rosemary Canfield
Troy

Benjamin R. Carlton
Sylacauga

Dr. W. Byron Causey
Alexander City

Joe C. Cavender
Heflin

Melba Chasteen
Decatur

William Chesser
Ariton

Dr. Laurel R. Clapp
Birmingham

R. E. Clapper
Prattville

Hattie G. Clark
Prichard

Jim Frank Clark
River View

Priscilla A. Cleveland
Sylacauga

Bettye Fine Collins
Birmingham

Sara Lou Connell
Childersburg

Sallie B. Cook
Holt

Lloyd H. Cornett, Jr.
Maxwell Air Force Base

Mrs. Walter Creamer
Chickasaw

Jane Culbreth
Leeds

Robert B. Culver
Anniston

Robert G. Curry
Saraland

Ed Daniel
Montgomery

Willa Dean Daniel
Jasper

Dr. Henry Davis
Ozark

Jennie Lee Dees
Atmore

Blanche Dykes
Ashford

Elizabeth T. Edwards
Wetumpka

Clark Edwards
Montgomery

Honorable Carl Elliott, Sr.
Jasper

Mark Ezell
Butler

Yvonne Foster
Russellville

Dr. Thomas J. Freeman
Weaver

Dr. Lynette Gaines
Mobile

Larry R. Garland
Decatur

Nancy Gonce
Florence

Robert L. Gonce
Florence

Willa Kaye Goodson
Tuscaloosa

Lois D. Goodwyn
Anniston

Dr. Nell Griffin
Gadsden

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Peggy Taylor
Decatur

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DELEGATES
(continued next page)

DELEGATES
(continued)

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Ozark

Ruth Waldrop
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Jasper

George Johnson
Opp

Wayne Love
Dothan

Lester McKiernan
Verbena

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Sara Webb
Demopolis

Gwendolyn Williams
Prichard

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Birmingham

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Florence

Anita Buckley
Hartselle

Priscilla Cleveland
Sylacauga

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Ruth Holliman
Carrollton

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Prichard

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Weaver

Ann Hamilton
Birmingham

Bill Highfill
Auburn

Mattie Jackson
Birmingham

Annie G. King
Tuskegee

Ethel Sanders
Troy

William Simpson
Cullman

Neil Snider
Livingston

James F. Wyatt
Tuscaloosa

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Nancy Gonce
Florence

Pat Horch
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Bob Lane
Montgomery

Shirley Nichols
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Merriam Delahay, *Architect*, Montgomery

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Brenda Booth, *Montgomery City-County Public Library*, Montgomery

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Becky Cothran, *Public Library of Selma & Dallas County*, Selma

Norman Davis, *Alabama Public Library Service*, Montgomery

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Sharon Swindell, *Birmingham-Jefferson County Library*, Birmingham

Mary Toulmin, *Mobile Public Library*, Mobile

Frank Walker, *George S. Houston Memorial Library*, Dothan

Teko Wiseman, *Mobile Public Library*, Mobile

Model Library

As part of the effort to acquaint conference participants, and the general public, with the range of existing library and information services, a Model Library was erected and staffed for two of the three conference days. The following is excerpted from the brochure distributed to the library's patrons.

WHAT IS THE MODEL LIBRARY?

The Model Library was created to demonstrate the range of library, media, and information services which now exist and which can be made available to meet the needs of the people of Alabama.

As you walk through the Model Library you will be encountering a facility with a collection unmatched by any Alabama library. Its resources range from the familiar book to an automated catalog listing holdings throughout Alabama and microcomputers offering individuals a capability formerly available only to large institutions.

Elsewhere in the library, methods of providing patrons with access to medical information are located near services generating enormous amounts of data on government activities, job opportunities, and educational and industrial concerns. Nearby, the latest in duplicating equipment, and a computer terminal with access to information on millions of books, rest close to valued reprints of previously unobtainable works by Alabama authors.

As a Model Library patron, you will be able to listen to telephone stories for children and view a model of a library which can be transported from place to place. After inspecting a nearby collection of art reproductions, you will have the opportunity to examine similar works on microfilm. Further along, you will be able to handle the modern machines used in providing library service to the blind and physically handicapped. Later, after browsing through the other collections, you might want to relax on representative library furniture while leafing through the pages of a good book or an informative magazine.

Where necessary, please feel free to ask the staff, and the participating exhibitors, any questions you might have on the library, media and information resources provided for your use within the Model Library.

A word about the staff of the Model Library. In general, the staff is the heart of any library or media center. Individuals wearing the Model Library ribbon are actually working librarians volunteering their time to serve as your guides. With the exception of a few meals provided by the Governor's Conference, these librarians are paying all the expenses incurred through their participation.

Our staff obviously believes in good library and media services. Feel free to ask the librarians about themselves and their everyday activities. You should be able to learn much about the people who, day in and day out, work to stretch their limited resources to meet the unlimited library needs of the people of Alabama.

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Library Services and Construction Act Funds

National Endowment for the Humanities

Alabama Committee for the Humanities and Public Policy

Alabama Library Association, Inc.

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Avondale Educational and Charitable Foundation, Inc.

The Baker and Taylor Companies

The Blount Foundation, Inc.

EBSCO Industries, Inc.

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Interstate School Suppliers

Education Associates, Inc.

Information Handling Services

Lelton H. Pittman

Robert B. Claud

Head's, Inc.

Carroll R. Jones

Richard J. Currie

Title Books, Inc.

Special services were rendered by:

Alabama Library Association, Incorporated, and the Alabama Instructional Media Association—staffing of the conference Model Library

Auburn University Department of Educational Media—signs for the Model Library

Edna Bush-coordinating the Model Library volunteers

IBM—typewriters for conference office

Junior Members Round Table, Alabama Library Association, Incorporated—assistance for selecting recipients of student grants to attend the conference

The success of the Alabama Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services was made possible by the dedicated commitment of many of the citizens of Alabama. To list all who deserve notice would be an impossible, though worthy, task. However, the individuals listed below served in their capacities as members of the Governor's Committee on Libraries, as the policy-making body for the conference effort.

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES FOR THE ALABAMA GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

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Kay Vowvalidis
Sara Webb

Conference Staff

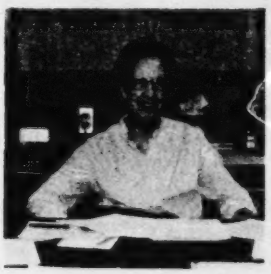
The following individuals served, on a day-to-day basis, as the conference staff. Where applicable, their assignments as liaisons between the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) and the various subcommittees of the Governor's Committee on Libraries are listed.

Bob Ingram, President and Editor of *Alabama News Magazine* and conference chairman

Ernie Laseter, APLS Federal Programs and State Aid Consultant and liaison with the Hospitality Subcommittee

Anthony W. Miele, APLS Director and liaison for the Program Subcommittee

Sue O. Medina, APLS Planning and Research Consultant and liaison with the Arrangements Subcommittee



Mozelle B. Cummings, APLS Assistant Director and conference coordinator

Alice Stephens, APLS Head of Technical Services and liaison with the Invitations Subcommittee

Bill Crowley, APLS Continuing Education Consultant and liaison with the Proceedings Subcommittee

Bob Schremser, APLS Consultant for Networks and Institutional Libraries and liaison with the District Meetings Subcommittee

Gillis Doughtie, Director of the Montgomery City-County Public Library and Chairman of the Model Library Task Force

Pat Warner, APLS Public Information Coordinator and liaison with the Public Relations Subcommittee

Special Acknowledgements

Special thanks is due to the following Alabama Public Library Service staff for their superb assistance in the success of the Governor's Conference:

Regina Finney
Fred Fuller
Judy Green
Miriam Pace
Judy Shepard
Tina Buie
Sammy Dopp
Beverly Davis
Kay Edwards
Brounetta Gray
Jawina Jackson
Judy Jarman
Mary Ritch
Sabrina Vega

Particular appreciation is due to the members of the Alabama library community who offered their services to staff the conference Model Library:

Katie R. Bell
Nancy Bush
Lula P. Cannedy
Alice Doughtie
Carolyn W. Ford
Fred Fuller
Pat Hall
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Mary Alice Howard
Dorothy K. Marcinko
Jane Marks
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Joan Nist
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Tevis B. Parker
Jean Patterson
Ivlyn Reed
Flora G. Reese
Gloria Reese
Nancy G. Sewell
Judy Shepard
Clara Talley
Willie Mae Cox Wade
Fara Zaleski

Afterword

From the beginning, the Alabama effort leading to our state conference and to the national White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services has been, by its very nature, largely an attempt to determine the needs of the residents of our 67 counties in the area of library and information services. As such, the process was undertaken with the full knowledge that it would achieve no final end. At its most successful, it was hoped that the conference would, somehow, provide an opportunity for the people of Alabama to make their own decisions and to set their own priorities in regard to the levels of library services which they deem to be most appropriate for their nation, their state, their communities, their families, and themselves.

Judgement as to the achievements of the conference is, of course, an individual matter. Yet, it is unlikely that these proceedings can be read without gaining a greater appreciation of the spirit of the people of Alabama and their willingness to consider, evaluate, and make recommendations about one of their basic public services.

These deliberations have, for the first time in years, provided the library community of our state with a solid basis for future decisions. When combined with the results of the upcoming White House Conference, they will provide the decision makers of Alabama with the necessary guidelines to assure that the library and information services of Alabama and the nation are truly meeting citizen needs.

Libraries exist to serve people!

Mozelle B. Cummings, Conference Coordinator
Assistant Director, Alabama Public Library Service

Anthony W. Miele, Director
Alabama Public Library Service